

What is claimed is:

1. A method for inhibiting the degradation of at least one of CREBL1 (cAMP responsive element binding protein-like 1), ATF6 (activating transcription factor 6), and HNF-4 $\alpha$  (hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 $\alpha$ ), comprising inhibiting the function of HtrA2 (high temperature requirement protein A2).
2. The method for inhibiting the degradation of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$  according to claim 1, in which to inhibit the function of HtrA2 is to inhibit the cleavage by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , wherein to inhibit the cleavage by HtrA2 of CREBL1 brings inhibition of the degradation of CREBL1, to inhibit the cleavage by HtrA2 of ATF6 brings inhibition of the degradation of ATF6, and to inhibit the cleavage by HtrA2 of HNF-4 $\alpha$  brings inhibition of the degradation of HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
3. The method for inhibiting the degradation of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$  according to claim 1, in which to inhibit the function of HtrA2 is to inhibit the interaction of the HtrA2 with at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , wherein to inhibit the interaction of the HtrA2 with CREBL1 brings inhibition of the degradation of CREBL1, to inhibit the interaction of the HtrA2 with ATF6 brings inhibition of the degradation of ATF6, and to inhibit the interaction of the HtrA2 with HNF-4 $\alpha$  brings inhibition of the degradation of HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
4. A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, comprising inhibiting the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
5. A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, comprising using the method for inhibiting the degradation of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$  according to any one of claims 1 to 3.
6. A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, comprising using one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
7. An agent for preventing and/or treating diabetes, comprising one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
8. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , comprising contacting at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$

and/or HtrA2 with a compound (a test compound) under conditions that allow the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ ; introducing a system using a signal and/or a marker capable of detecting at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ ; detecting the presence or absence and/or change of the signal and/or the marker; and determining whether the test compound inhibits the degradation of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ .

9. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , comprising contacting at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$  and/or HtrA2 with a compound (a test compound) under conditions that allow the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ ; detecting the presence or absence of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , and/or measuring the change of the amount thereof; or detecting the presence or absence of the degradation product of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ , and/or measuring the change of the amount thereof; and determining whether the test compound inhibits the degradation of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the method of identifying a compound that inhibits the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of CREBL1, ATF6, and HNF-4 $\alpha$  is a method of identifying a compound that is an active ingredient in an agent for preventing and/or treating diabetes.
11. A method for inhibiting cell death, comprising inhibiting the degradation by HtrA2 of CREBL1 and/or ATF6.
12. A method for inhibiting cell death, comprising using one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of CREBL1 and/or ATF6.
13. The method for inhibiting cell death according to claim 11 or 12, in which the cell death is cell death of a pancreatic  $\beta$  cell.
14. An agent for inhibiting cell death, comprising one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of CREBL1 and/or ATF6.
15. The agent for inhibiting cell death according to claim 14, wherein the cell death is cell death of a pancreatic  $\beta$  cell.

16. A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, comprising using the method for inhibiting cell death according to any one of claims 11 to 13.
17. A method for preventing and/or treating type 2 diabetes, comprising inhibiting the degradation by HtrA2 of HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
18. An agent for preventing and/or treating type 2 diabetes, comprising one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of HNF-4 $\alpha$ .
19. A reagent kit, comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of HtrA2, a polynucleotide encoding HtrA2, and a vector containing the polynucleotide encoding HtrA2; and at least one selected from the group consisting of CREBL1, ATF6, HNF-4 $\alpha$ , a polynucleotide encoding CREBL1 or ATF6 or HNF-4 $\alpha$ , and a vector containing the polynucleotide encoding CREBL1 or ATF6 or HNF-4 $\alpha$ .